

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are now pending in the application. Claim 4 is herein canceled. Claims 1 and 5 are herein amended. In order to place the application in better condition for allowance, previously withdrawn Claims 8 through 19 are herein canceled, without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 through 3 and 6 through 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Friedrich et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,253,423). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is initially noted Claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 4 and Claim 4 has been herein canceled. Amended Claim 1 should therefore be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 1. Because Claims 2 through 3 and 6 through 7 depend from Claim 1, Claims 2 through 3 and 6 through 7 should also be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claims 2 through 3 and 6 through 7.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As previously noted, the allowable subject matter of Claim 4 has been incorporated in Claim 1 and Claim 4 has been herein canceled. Applicants have amended Claim 5 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Claim 5 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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